

SONGS OF GROWTH

BY

JAMES L. HUGHES

CHRISTMAS
1911



ELL
ALL

To Miss Alice Harding,
with all Good Wishes



I have a garden in my heart
With flowers of beauty rare;
Fond memories of my dearest friends,
And you are blooming there.

I have fine pictures in my heart
Of those I found most true,
And often, when I am alone,
I sit and look at you.

I have sweet music in my heart
Of rich and varied tone;
In life's great choir of voices, I
Can always hear your own.

James H. Hughes

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The Laws of Growth



I shall keep true touch with the universe,
And the vital light of the fire divine
Will direct my life with a vision clear,
And achieving power will be surely mine.

I shall climb the heights where true progress leads;
I shall learn the secrets of Nature's laws;
I shall teach new truths that will upward guide,
I shall work for justice and freedom's cause.

I shall sing no song of despair or grief;
For my failures past I shall weep no tears;
I shall garner courage, and faith, and love
To give hope and strength in the coming years.

I shall search the lives of my fellow men
For the good, the noble, the true alone;
For the things I see in their lives I know
Will re-act on me and transform my own.

I shall turn my face to the sun all day
Till he sets at eve in the golden west;
And the work of life will give growth and joy,
And the afterglow will bring peaceful rest.

Freedom To Grow



It does not give new power to grow,
To learn what men believed;
Men kindle truly, when they know
The work men have achieved.

The soul its richest growth attains,
When from all bondage freed;
We should not bind it with the chains
Of prejudice or creed.

The revelations of past years,
Should stimulate, not bind;
No ancient thought, no hoary fears,
Can check the strong, free mind.

The victories mankind has won,
Should point to duties new;
The noble work the past has done,
Should guide to broader view.

True leaders are the men who dare
To climb alone, to see
A higher vision in clear air
From cloud and darkness free.

Happiness and Growth



Oh! why should I weep when the world goes wrong?
I go to the woods to see
The flowers and ferns, for they always give
A message of hope to me.

Oh! why should I garner my sorrows up?
I go to the shady glen,
And drop all my cares on the river's breast;
They never come back again.

Oh! why should I grieve when misfortunes come?
I climb to the hilltop high,
And silently look, till my heart is full
Of joy, at the cloudless sky.

Oh! why should I worry in life's dark hours?
I turn to the stars, and lo!
They whisper a lesson of comfort sweet,
And life has a radiant glow.

Oh! why should my troubles destroy my power,
Or rob me of joy? I know
I stand in the centre of light and growth,
And duty says, work and grow.

Partnership in Growth



I plant a seed ; a flower blooms ; I know
That I alone could not have made it grow,
And yet I know full well, that power divine
Produced the plant in unity with mine.

God enters into partnership with me :—
No greater thought than this can ever be
Revealed to finite mind ; all things are mine
If I accept and use the power divine.

God is my silent partner ; He will do
No work of mine, but it is surely true
That I may trust him to supply my needs.
Life's flowers will grow, if I will plant the seeds.

Growth in the Best



If the friends I trusted have proven false
I can think of those who have still been true;
I have planted seeds that have never grown,
But I think with joy of the flowers that grew.

If my heart grows faint, at the fount of faith
I can drink fresh draughts and my strength renew;
If my life grows narrow, my thought may soar
On the wings of hope to a broader view.

For there are no fetters to bind my soul
When the wider vision has set me free;
And there is no evil without some good
Of a larger kind that is close to me.

Aiding Growth



I can transform a barren place
By planting there
Fine fruits and flowers, producing growth
And beauty rare.

I can enkindle barren lives
To vital glow
By hopeful word and kindly deed,
And they will grow.

I can bring water to the flower
That droops, and then
It will revive, and with fresh strength
Will bloom again.

So to dark lives my heart may bring
Love's cheering light,
And hope's bright star will ever shine,
When it is night.

Faith and Growth



The noblest hero is the man whose faith
Grows stronger as the night grows dark and drear,
Who bravely struggles on to overcome,
Though foes oppose, and there is none to cheer.

True to his vision and with dauntless heart,
Enthusiastic, though he climbs alone,
Faith leads him upward that he may reveal
Some truth he sees to others yet unknown.

The highest happiness the heart can know
Comes, when his victory at last is won;
And in his triumph on the mountain crest
He stands serenely, when his work is done.

Be not distrustful, doubting unbelief
Ne'er led to high endeavor to achieve;
The men who have transforming power are those
Who in themselves, their cause, and God believe.

Prayer and Growth



If I use my power, I may justly ask
For a higher power, it is vain to pray
For a deeper insight, unless I strive
To perform the duty I see to-day.

The Divine Creator makes no mistakes;
I must use with zeal for a purpose true
What I now possess, or he'll never give
Any greater power, any vision new.

God has never promised to do my work,
But He gives more wisdom and insight still
To reveal my duty, if I respond
To His guiding spirit, and do His will.

'Twould be reckless waste to give me new power,
If I do not try to achieve the plan
That He has revealed; if I do not prove
In the work of life that I am a man.

Growth by Doing



Believe him not who says that "men do wrong
Because they love wrong better than the right;"
God made man well—with power for higher life,
With love of work and longing for the light.

Men do the wrong because they do not see
The glory of the good they might achieve;
Christ taught mankind "to do His will to know
His doctrine." Men grow blind who but believe.

Pure joy is never found in doing wrong;
'Tis doing brings delight; men love to do,
Because transforming gives them faith, and hope,
And lifts the soul to wider, clearer view.

To do to-day the duty that we see
Reveals tomorrow's duty, and supplies
Achieving power for upward growth; and life
Grows sweeter, richer, grander, as we rise.

Growth in Selfhood



He is the greatest man who knows
He is a thought of God,
Endowed with leadership to climb
Where man has never trod;

With special gift; with vision clear
Revealed to him alone
Of work enriching human life;
With thought before unknown;

With power to make new flowers bloom
In barren lives, or light
A torch high up the mountain side
To make the path more bright.

Self Faith and Growth



"We are but worms, all flesh is grass,"
The mournful preacher taught.
'Tis true - compared with God himself
Mere human power is naught.

But God created us, and gave
Us power to grow, and do
Each day some noble work, and be
More strong, more wise, more true.

We represent Him, and should feel
The honor of our trust;
We should be worthy men, and not
"Unworthy worms of dust."

God's faith in us should give us faith,
That we may ever be
Prepared to undertake with joy
Each duty that we see.

He fails who undervalues power
He has, but dare not use;
More power he cannot gain, and what
He has, he'll surely lose.

A wormy Christian basely creeps,
When he should bravely fight
With faith in God and true self fait..
To win for truth and right.

Upward Growth



Will you climb life's mountain with me my friend?
'Tis a long and a testing climb,
But we grow by climbing, and growth means life,
When our lives with the right keep time.

We will gain new power on our upward path,
As we struggle to reach the height,
When the mists roll back and we see all things
In a stronger and brighter light,

And we'll see more clearly our fellowmen
Who are weak, and who need our aid,
Who have slipped and fallen, and must be roused
By the faith of the undismayed.

And our hearts will glow, when they rise and look
At the heights with fresh hope again,
And begin to climb with a firmer step,
And the swing of achieving men.

I am glad you'll come for I surely know
I'll be stronger, if you are near;
In the long dark nights, and the fierce wild storms
I shall need you my heart to cheer.

L'Envoi



Dear friend, through all the future years
My Christmas wish will be,
That higher hopes and truer growth.
May come to you and me.

